PrintShop Mail Connect

Release Notes

Version 2022.1.2

Objectif Lune

PrintShop Mail Connect

OL® Software

Release Notes
Version 2022.1.2
Last Revision: 2022-06-08

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OL PrintShop Mail Connect Release Notes 2022.1.2

License Update Required for Upgrade to OL Connect 2022.x

From OL Connect 2019.1 onwards, only customers with a current OL Care subscription will be able to update Connect.

Every Connect license now contains an end date that represents the last day of OL Care coverage for each customer. Upgrades and updates of Connect will be freely available up until that end date, but will not be available thereafter, unless the OL Care period is extended.

This new licensing model requires anyone upgrading from Connect versions earlier than 2019.1 to first update their OL Connect License.

A dialog box appears as part of the Connect upgrade process requesting you to do this.

It is heavily recommended that you first update the OL Update Manager, as newer versions of the Update Manager can update your OL License to the required version, then install Connect 2022.1.

For further details on how to upgrade the Update Client and update your Connect License see the Update Manager 1.5 - Upgrade Guide.

If issues arise, or if you need to renew your OL Care subscription, please contact your local Customer Care group.

Backup before Upgrading

It is recommended that you always backup your existing Connect preferences before upgrading to a new version. This will enable you to revert back to the previous version, in a worst case scenario in which the new version introduces issues with your existing production processes. Whilst the probability of such a worst case scenario is remote, it cannot hurt to take some simple precautions, just in case.

For instructions on how to do so, please see how to backup an existing Connect installation.

Overview

This document provides an overview of the new features and enhancements in PrintShop Mail Connect2022.1, as well as some important installation information.

Installing OL Connect 2022.1

- PrintShop Mail Connect is released as a 64 Bit version only.
- Full details on installing (Installation Wizard) and licensing (Activating a License) PrintShop Mail Connect can be found in the linked online Help pages.
- Note that PrintShop Mail Connect comes with a 30 day trial license by default.

Connect installer requires Administrator rights

Please note that the PrintShop Mail Connect installations can *only be run by users who have Administrator rights*.

OL Connect 2022.1.2 Improvements

An additional security feature has been added, making Connect 2022.1.2 the official Connect 2022.1.x release. (SHARED-86250)

OL Connect 2022.1.1 Improvements

Some issues were discovered with the new Connect Installer during 2022.1.0 Release Candidate testing. These issues have now been fixed. (SHARED-86124)

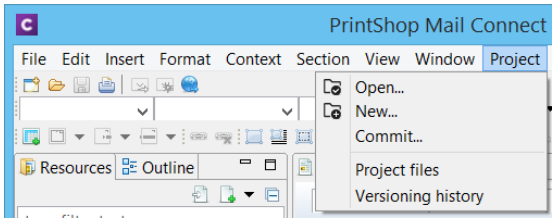
OL Connect 2022.1 Improvements

Version control added

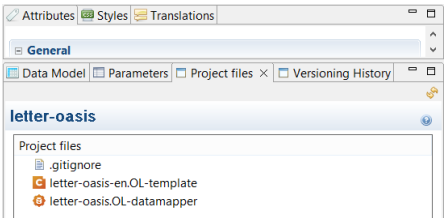
The **Designer** now uses Git integration to maintain a history of files inside named **Projects**. (SHARED-81457)

This feature allows you to combine all the files used in a Project and keep a record of any/all changes made to any of the files within the Project thereafter.

Projects are added via new **Project** menu.

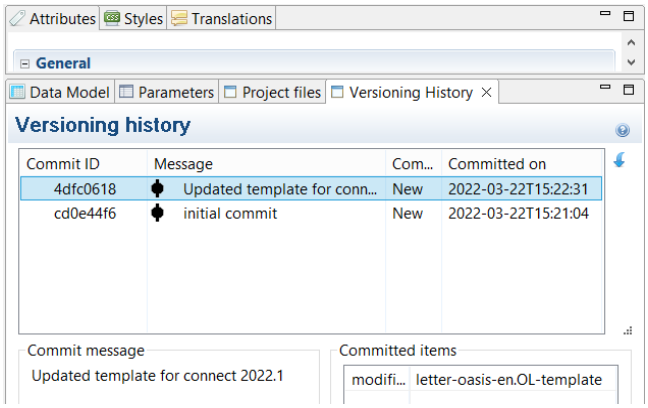


The files comprising a Project can be viewed in the new **Project Files** panel.



Each time you *commit* a resource (i.e., when you save an updated version of it), any additional information provided gets recorded alongside the file.

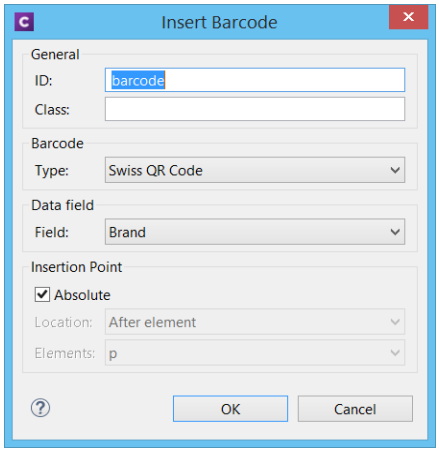
You can browse through the history of all changes in the **Versioning History** panel, which contains a complete record of who did what, on which date, and for which reason.



You can elect to revert to a version from within the history if something turns out to be flawed in your current project.

Swiss QR barcode

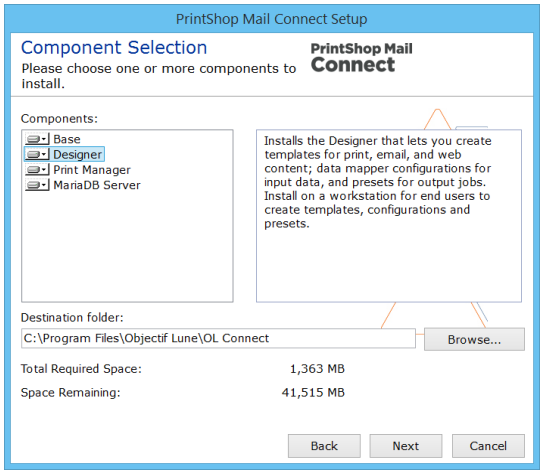
Swiss QR barcode support added to Connect. (SHARED-84012)



New Connect Installer

The OL Connect installer has been totally re-engineered. (SHARED-81627)

The new installer is based upon more standard architecture and supports rollbacks in case something goes wrong during installation.



Java update

Updated the Java platform upon which Connect runs to AdoptOpenJDK 11.0.13+8 (SHARED-82163)

Maria DB installed with Connect

Fresh installations of Connect now install **MariaDB**, rather than MySQL.

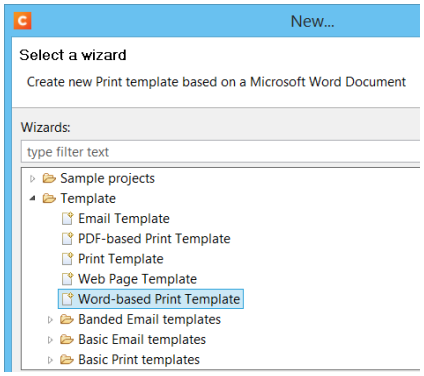
Pre-existing Connect installations that had the Connect MySQL component installed will be migrated to MariaDB at installation time. Connect will continue to work with any customer provided MySQL databases that were present prior to Connect being installed. (SHARED-83135)

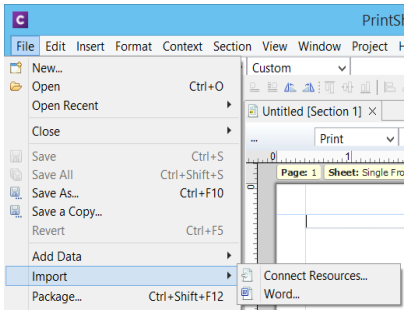
> **Note**
>
> The database migration process might take some considerable time (many minutes). The time taken is dependent upon the size of the existing Connect MySQL database.

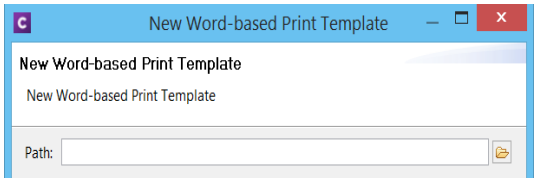
OL Connect 2022.1 Designer Improvements

Import Microsoft Word documents into print Templates

Added the ability to create new print Templates from Word documents and to import Word documents into an existing Templates. (SHARED-83760)







The import uses the original Word document page size, margins, text formatting, lists, graphics, TextBoxes and even mail-merge information.

The contents of the Word file are added to the first Section in the Connect Template.
Mail merge place holders in Word documents are used to create a datamodel and userscritps.
Images are written to the Images folder and a base stylesheet is added to the Stylesheets panel. TextBox objects are converted to elements.

HTML templating using Handlebars

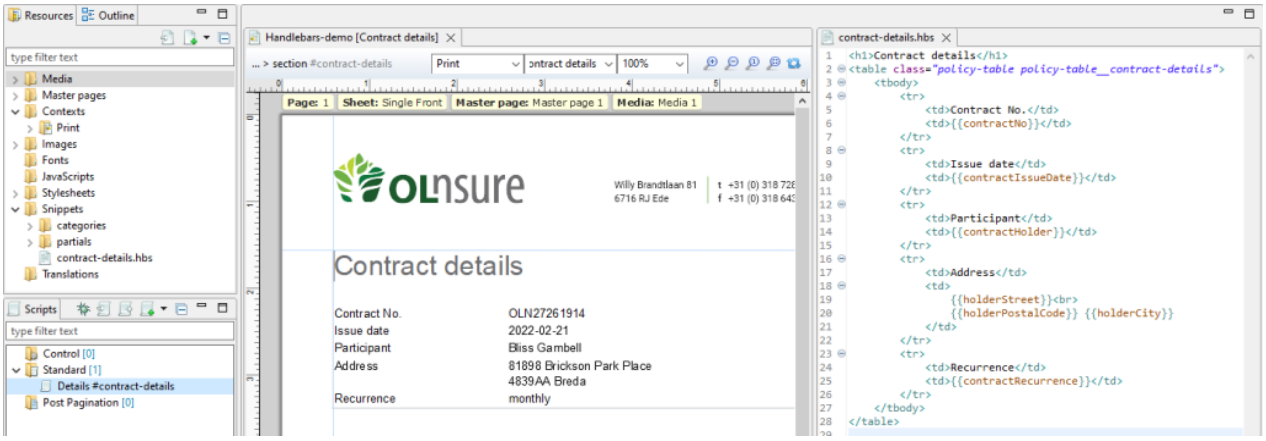
Provided new functionality that reduces the amount of scripting needed to create placeholder heavy and modular design templates. (SHARED-83543)

If you've ever created OL Connect Designer templates for long documents like contracts and insurance policies, you're undoubtedly familiar with snippets. Snippet-heavy templates can become hard to maintain when each snippet requires multiple scripts to apply personalization

and conditions. It requires the snippets and scripts to be thoughtfully organized (grouping, naming conventions, search optimizations). But even then, things can become cluttered and may even impact the overall performance of your template.

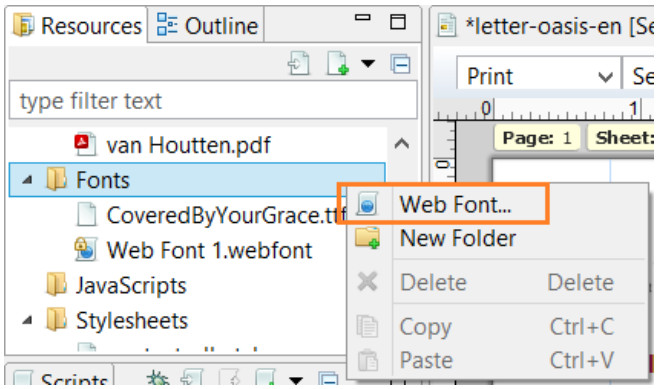
Users with a background in web design may be familiar with the Handlebars library. It is a popular templating library that provides a simple way to merge HTML snippets with data. This library has now been added to OL Connect Designer.

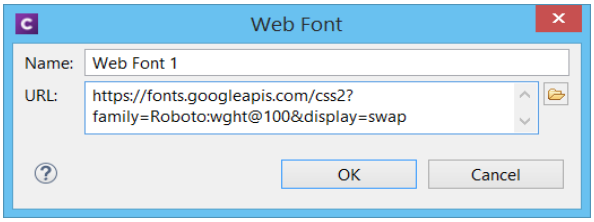
The Handlebars template snippets in OL Connect Designer will vastly reduce the number of scripts for the mentioned document types and help keep templates lean by creating semantic snippets.



Improved Web Font support

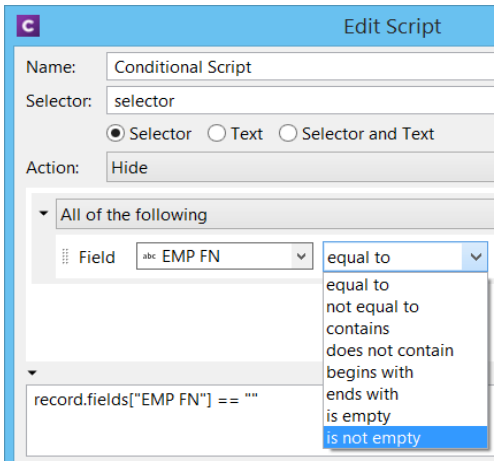
The OL Connect Designer already supported web fonts, but only via CSS Stylesheets.
To simplify this, an option has been added to the Fonts folder to directly add remote fonts.
(SHARED-78790)





Conditional Script improvements

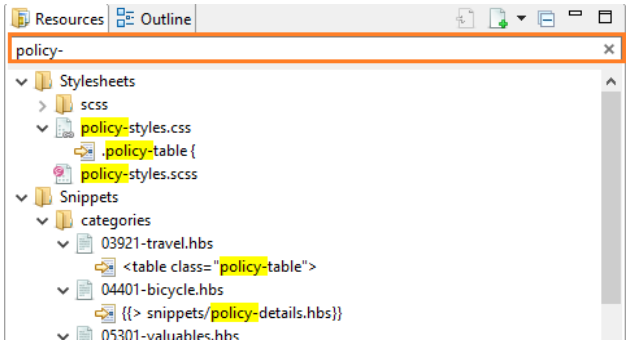
To further simplify Conditional Scripts, we have added two new conditions `is empty` and `is not empty`. (SHARED-81585).



Search across Resources

The **Resources** panel has been expanded with a filter option. (SHARED-83845)

This allows searching across master pages, sections, stylesheets and snippets.
The search results are grouped into the files containing the search term showing a preview and indicator of the term in each file.



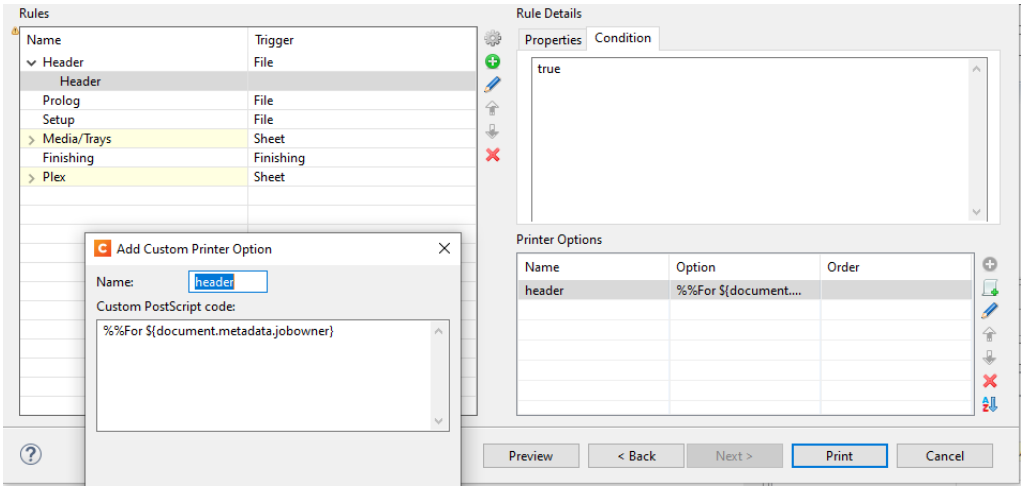
General Designer Improvements

- Fixed a problem with HTML snippets saved in source mode not actually saving the changes. (SHARED-80971)
- Refresh types button in text scripts now enabled when needed. (SHARED-82014)
- Templates are now still considered "changed" after making changes, saving and then undoing those changes. (SHARED-83254)
- Connect will now continue to recognize remote translation files after a template is saved, closed and then reopened. (SHARED-84825)
- Updated 3rd party library to fix issues with **USPS IMb** barcodes. (SHARED-84847)

OL Connect 2022.1 Output Improvements

Tweak Postscript Headers

Raw Postscript can now be inserted at the header level. (SHARED-83380)
Certain printers require very specific information in their header comments to work correctly. Although this could already be handled through custom Printer Definitions, it can now also be done directly through Dynamic PPD mode.



The inserts are added in the order they appear.

Use system fonts as fallback for missing input file fonts

When fonts are missing in input files (PDF, PostScript, etc.), it is now possible to have Connect use system fonts if the same fonts are installed locally. (SHARED-54777)

At the moment this a technical preview feature, which requires manually editing the OL-outputpreset file, thus:

```
<fontSubstitutionConfig>
<pluginId>0</pluginId>
<useSystemFonts>true</useSystemFonts>
</fontSubstitutionConfig>
```

General Output Improvements

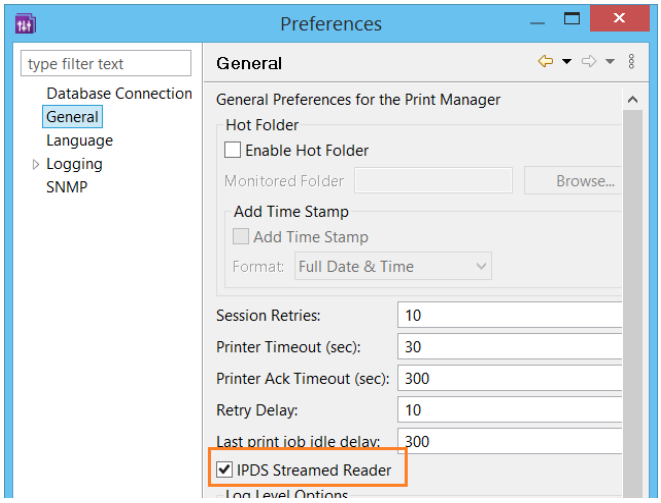
- Improved error/warning messaging. (SHARED-75666)
- When the output engine flattening a transparency in a PDF file takes more than a minute, it will now logs messages to report progress on the flattening operation. (SHARED-81683)
- It is now possible to change the default SMTP timeouts of the Merge Engine via setting system properties in the ini file. (SHARED-82202)
- Added support for web font files (*.woff) in AddText components of custom Enhance workflows. (SHARED-83567\83587)
- Prevented an "Attempt to paginate an already paginated DOM" error that could occur when scripts called merge.section.paginate() function. (SHARED-84276)
- Improved handling of Open Type Format (OTF) fonts. (SHARED-84502)
- Updated 3rd party library to fix issues with **USPS IMb** barcodes in output. (SHARED-85117)

Print Output Improvements

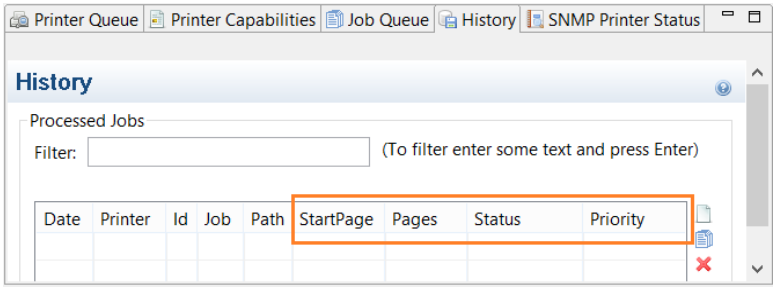
- Fixed issue in Dynamic PPD to include missing %EndPageSetup. (SHARED-83388)
- Fixed an error occurring in PDF output for certain types of images when image optimization is enabled (Indexed with a base colorspace that is not DeviceRGB/Gray/CMYK). (SHARED-83559)
- Media items in DynamicPPD Output presets are now optional. (SHARED-83827)
- Crop marks were incorrectly positioned on the back side of duplex output sheets when using 90 or 270 degrees rotated impositioning. This has been fixed. (SHARED-84770)
- Improved handling of PDFs with Transparency Groups when using Imposition. (SHARED-84914)
- **AFD and IPDS** improvements
  - IPDS jobs that contained many barcodes were failing to print. The handling of barcodes has been changed to address this issue. (SHARED-83927)
  - IPDS and AFPDS advanced logging now contains extra information on forms and images used. (SHARED-84202)
  - Updated handling of PDF with Transparency Groups when using Imposition in IPDS output. This has resulted in improved processing times and smaller spool-file output. (SHARED-84914)
  - To address an issue with IPDS Duplex printing starting out of sync after a restart, we now include Plex commands at the start of each physical sheet. (SHARED-84916)

OL Connect 2022.1 Print Manager Improvements

- A problem was encountered on some IPDS printers, which would freeze after a period of time. This was due to issues with reading responses from the printer. A new "*IPDS streamed Reader*" preference has been added to the **Print Manager Preferences**, to cater for printers that experience this issue. (SHARED-84485)



- Extra information now captured and displayed in the PrintManager. The extra information is available in the **History** and **Preview** panes. (SHARED-85054)



OL Connect 2022.1 Improvements

Security and Installer improvements

- Connect dependencies have been updated. (SHARED-83698)
- The Adobe PDF Library and PDF Converter libraries were updated to their latest version. (SHARED-83712)
- The OL Update Manager included as part of the Connect has been updated to version 1.5 in Connect 2022.1. (SHARED-85508)
- Updated Windows Service Wrapper library to improve security. (SHARED-85076)
- NodeJS log lib (log4js) updated to improve security (SHARED-85078)
- Upgraded dependencies to protect against Spring vulnerability CVE-2022-22965. (SHARED-85809)

Known Issues

As of PrintShop Mail Connect 2018.1 the Known Issues have moved from the Release Notes to the Connect online Help.

They can be found here.